Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJ: AFTERMATH OF DIADA OF CATALUNIA

REF: MADRID 6925

- 1. THE "DIADA" (THE DAY OF CATALUNIA) CAME OFF RATHER QUIETLY, WITHOUT ALTERATION OF PUBLIC ORDER. THE PRESS SUGGESTS SOME 50,000 OR MORE MANAGED TO REACH THE BARCELONA SUBURB FOR THE RALLY, BUT SOURCES CLOSE TO THE ORGANIZER TOLD OUR CONSUL GENERAL IN BARCELONA THAT RHE NUMBER WAS CLOSER TO 20,000, POINTING UP A LONGSTANDING PROBLEM IN WHICH THE PRESS OFTEN EXAGGERATES THE NUMBER OF THOSE IN ATTENDANCE AT RALLIES OR DEMONSTRATIONS.
- 2. ACCORDING TO CONSUL GENERAL BARCELONA, THE FACT THAT THE GOS PERMITTED THE RALLY HELPED DEFUSE A POTENTIALLY DIFFICULT SITUATION AND THE ORGANIZERS' EFFORTS AT SELF-POLICING -- WHICH WERE QUITE IN EFIVENCE -- KEPT RADICAL ELEMENTS FROM GETTING OUT OF HAND, THUS REASSURING THE GOS THAT CATALAN POLITICAL FORCES ARE RESPONSIBLE. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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